

BUSINESS BUZZ

Just the Stats Ma'am

Contributed by Jeff Lambert, Business Services Manager for the Riverside Public Library

According to Alan Schwarz’s book, “The Numbers Game” baseball has had a life long fascination with statistics. As a baseball fan and business librarian, I can honestly say that library patrons have had this fascination too! While I do not keep track of the exact number of statistical questions that I receive, everyone seems to want to know “How Many”?, “What Percentage”?, “What is the Largest”?, What is the Total Number”?, “What is the Average” and of course, “How Much”?

Most people are probably familiar with “Statistical Abstract of the United States”, <http://www.census.gov/prod/www/abs/statab.html>. I would like to share some of my favorite statistical resources, (all free - all reputable) which you might not be familiar with:

- **Biz Stats.** <http://www.bizstats.com/>
No Chat...Just Stats! is the by-line for BizStats.com, which is one of the leading online sources for small business statistics, including financial ratios, benchmarks, and information as specific as the safest and riskiest type of business. It answers questions as specific as, what the average small business owner keeps from each dollar of revenue? (industry profitability-sole proprietorships), and as quick as the total number of U.S. businesses, total size of the U.S. markets by industry, and how much “dough” a typical Krispy Kreme store makes? (restaurant industry benchmarks).
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics.** <http://www.bls.gov/>
The Government’s fact-finding agency for measuring the economy by collecting data about the economic and social conditions of the nation. Use the “At a Glance Statistics” tables to quickly retrieve current and historical data.

- **Free Lunch.com.** <http://www.economy.com/freelunch/default.asp>
FreeLunch.com contains the Web’s largest collection of free economic, financial, and industry data-over 1,000,000 series.
- **Financial Forecast Center.** <http://www.forecasts.org/>
The main focus of this site is to provide freely available forecasts for stock indexes, stock prices, interest and money rates, foreign exchange rates, and other economic indicators. Examples of these forecasts include the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the prime interest rate, crude oil prices, unemployment, and mortgage interest rates.
- **Bankrate.com.** <http://www.bankrate.com/brm/default.asp>
Makes it easy to calculate mortgage rates, credit card or car payments, amortization tables etc.
- **Currency Site.** <http://www.oanda.com/>
Currency exchanges rates for 164 currencies, from Jan. 1, 1900 through current day.
- **Inflation Calculator.** <http://www.westegg.com/inflation/>
Adjusts any given amount of money for inflation, according to the Consumer Price Index, from 1800 to 2007.
- **Salary Calculator: Relocation, Cost of Living, Real Estate.** http://www.homefair.com/find_a_place/calculators/salarycalc/index.asp?cc=1
Compare the cost of living in hundreds of U.S. Cities.



Upcoming Workshops: (All located in the Riverside Public Library Auditorium, at 3581 Mission Inn Avenue).
For more information or to register call (951) 826-5212.

- **Will the REAL John Smith Please Stand Up: Protecting Yourself from Identify Theft and Mail Fraud.** The audience will learn about current mail fraud and ID theft sams and receive prevention tips. Presented by Martha Carillo, U.S. Postal Inspector. FREE. Saturday, June 2nd, 10:30 a.m.-Noon.
- **Educational Planning (Ameriprise Financial).** FREE. Tuesday, June 12th, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
- **Networking: Schmooze or Lose. SCORE Workshop.** Wednesday, June 13th, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
- **The Power of Motivation: Bringing out the best in others,** by Lisa Marie Platske. FREE. Wednesday, June 20th, 6-7:30 p.m.

ARTS & CULTURE SPOTLIGHT



Summer Nights in the Park Concert Series

The City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department presents a series of FREE family-oriented band concerts at Fairmount Park and NEW this summer at La Sierra Park. Concerts are themed in various genres, such as Rock, Oldies, Blues, Jazz, Mariachi, and Swing. Youth can enjoy a fun zone that includes a rock climbing wall, giant obstacle course, face painting and balloon artist for only \$3 per concert for unlimited play. Come early and bring a picnic dinner (or taste the flavor or Riverside from local food vendors on site), blankets or beach chair to enjoy a cool summer Wednesday evening at Fairmount Park. Summer Nights in the Park Concerts Series dates are as follows: Fairmount Park concerts begin June 27th through September 5 th from 6 to 9 p.m. (excluding July 4th). LaSierra dates are: Thursday, July 19, 26 and August 2 and 9, from 7 to 9 p.m.

The concert series will be kicked off by Tierra, the first Latin band to have four songs on the national chart and two simultaneously in the Top 100. They have performed in such prestigious shows and venues such as Carnegie Hall, The American Music Awards, American Bandstand and The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Join us to enjoy the band named “Best R & B Vocal Group” by four leading magazines including Billboard.

Other upcoming performers in this concert series include:

- **The Backbeats: A Tribute to the Beatles,** July 11 at Fairmount Park
- **The Detroit Lean Band: Motown Hits,** July 18 at

- Fairmount Park
- **5683: R & B Soul,** July 19 at La Sierra Park
 - **Cold Ducks: Dance Party Grooves,** July 25 at Fairmount Park
 - **Westwind Productions: Hawaiian Luau,** July 26 at La Sierra Park
 - **Porterhouse Bob: Barrelhouse Blues,** August 1 at Fairmount Park
 - **Big Poppa & the TCB: Back Alley Blues,** August 2 at La Sierra Park and August 22 at Fairmount Park
 - **Sangria: Old School,** August 8 at Fairmount Park

The series will finish with two fantastic Latin bands, Mariachi Divas and Sombra Quieta. The Mariachi Divas will perform at La Sierra Park on August 9 and Fairmount Park on August 29. This group is a unique, multi-cultural ensemble that has been featured with Grammy award winning artists such as: Joan Sebastian, Jenny Rivera and Pablo Montero. Don’t miss this all woman Mariachi!

Sombra Quieta will be featured in the series on September 5 at Fairmount Park. Their style fuses traditional Rumba Flamenco with Bossa Nova, Latin Jazz and Middle Eastern influences to create a flavorful rhythmic style of music. Sombra Quieta performs both original and cover songs in the musical vein of the Gypsy Kings and other Latin greats. Join Sombra Quieta in concluding a 10 week series of a fantastic musical experience!

For information on these and other events that the City of Riverside Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department hosts contact (951) 826-2000.

